

DR. BRIGGS' HERESIES.

A FULL STATEMENT BY A DISTINGUISHED PRESBYTERIAN DIVINE.

His Trial for Teaching That the Bible, the Church and Reason are the Foundations of Divine Authority.

For more than a year the religious public has been interested in a trial, which has passed through three successive ecclesiastical courts of the Presbyterian Church—Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

The learning and talent of the accused, his high position as Professor in a Theological Seminary, and the importance of the questions involved have awakened an unusual interest in religious circles in this country and have excited much comment abroad.

That the readers of The Times may have a clearer idea of this controversy, we have requested an eminent divine who is familiar with it in all its bearings to give such an account of it as will make it intelligible to all who wish to learn the precise points at issue. His response is as follows:

It is my purpose to make a succinct and yet sufficiently comprehensive statement of the case of Rev. Charles A. Briggs, D. D., now pending in the Presbytery of New York, both as respects the history of the same and its intrinsic merits.

Some personal reference to the distinguished divine may properly preface the narrative. Dr. Briggs, a native of New York city, now about fifty-two years of age, is a graduate of the University of Virginia, pursued his theological course in the Union Seminary of New York and the University of Berlin. He was a pastor for four years in Roselle, a village in New Jersey, and was called to the Professorship of Hebrew and Cognate Languages in Union Seminary of New York city, from which chair, in November, 1890, he was transferred to the Professorship of Biblical Theology in the same institution. For eighteen years he has held a conspicuous place in this school of divinity, exerting a moulding influence on the theological opinions and spiritual life of the students under his care. Dr. Briggs possesses social qualities of a high order, and a personal magnetism, which attracts and attaches many to him, especially those who accord with his opinions. He has been a diligent student. On some themes, more particularly the history of the church, the doctrine of predestination, and polity, he is one of the best informed scholars in this country, whilst in his acquaintance with the Hebrew Scriptures he has few superiors.

When Dr. Briggs was transferred from the Professorship of Hebrew to that of Biblical Theology, he was inaugurated in the latter position without waiting for the action of the General Assembly, the approval of which body, in the judgment of many, was required, even in the case of a transfer by the compact of 1870, whereby the Seminary came under the care of the Presbyterian Church of the North. The Assembly vetoed his transfer, but he continued to teach. On the occasion of his inauguration Professor Briggs delivered a inaugural address on the "Authority of Holy Scripture," which address contained certain views generally believed to be in conflict with the teachings of the Bible, and with the confession of faith, to which he had pledged himself to conform his teachings.

His inaugural was widely circulated, and through it his objectionable views became more generally known. Special significance was attached to this address because of its direct relation to his professorial chair, and his influence on the ministry of the future. Soon after its delivery, the Presbytery of New York appointed a committee to examine the inaugural and report thereon at an early day. The report, which was adverse to many sentiments contained in the inaugural, was carefully considered, and the presbytery determined to enter upon a judicial process, appointing a committee consisting of three ministers and two elders, representing the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, with power, under the provisions of the Book of Discipline, to conduct the prosecution in all its stages in whatever jurisdiction until the final issue should be reached. At a subsequent meeting the committee presented a series of charges, with specifications, and citations from scripture and the confessions of faith, which were found in order and placed in the hands of Dr. Briggs. Presbytery reassembled in November, 1891, with the view of entering on a formal trial. Dr. Briggs, availing himself of a constitutional right, presented certain objections to the sufficiency of the charges and specifications, in form and legal effect. In his statement of these objections, his unusually quiet and conciliatory manner, and an expression of regret that he had grieved any of his brethren, gave to many an impression that he had modified his views, and that he at least desisted from teaching them in the future, and the presbytery dismissed the case. From this action the committee of prosecution appealed, as they were permitted to do, to the highest judiciary of the church, and the general assembly met at session at Portland, Me., May 28, 1892, sustained the appeal by a vote of 307 to 87 and remanded the case to the presbytery of New York for a new trial.

In compliance with the instructions of the general assembly presbytery again assembled, November 9, 1892, with the view of trying the case on its merits. Dr. Briggs immediately interposed a series of objections to the status of the committee of prosecution, denying their power to act in the premises, which objections, in view of the late action of the general assembly, the moderator decided to be out of order. An appeal being taken from this judgment of the moderator, his decision was sustained by a vote of 13 to 58. The committee then presented amended charges and specifications, substantially the same as those of the preceding year and adjourned to meet November, 28th instant, when, it may be, Dr. Briggs will again object to the sufficiency of the charges and specifications in form and legal effect, and in the event of objections being sustained by the presbytery, another appeal will probably be taken and the matter carried to the Synod of New York or the general assembly, thus deferring the final adjudication of the case at least another year. Dr. Briggs and his friends had often expressed a wish that a judicial investigation, claiming that it would result in a complete vindication of his teachings, but their recent action has been inconsistent with the wish thus expressed.

This is a brief history of the Briggs case, so far as the judicial steps are concerned. The merits of the case now attract much attention.

Dr. Briggs teaches that there are three fountains of divine authority—the Bible, the Church and the reason; and the Church and the reason is each declared to be an independent and sufficient authority. He affirms that in case of some, the Holy Scriptures are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and of his will which is necessary to salvation, even though men strive never so hard, and that such persons, set aside the authority of the Word of God, can obtain that saving knowledge of him through the Church or reason.

To illustrate this theory the Professor cites the case of Cardinal Newman, who could not reach certainty through the Bible or reason, but did not vacillate in his faith, and who obtained rest, Mar-tineau, it is claimed, furnishes an example of the sufficiency of reason. Dr. Briggs says "Martineau could not find divine authority in the Church or the Bible, but he did find God enthroned in his own soul. Spurgeon is an example of the average modern evangelical, who holds the Protestant position, and as-

sails the Church and reason in the interests of the authority of Scripture. But the average opinion of the Christian world would not assign him a higher place in the Kingdom of God than Martineau or Newman."

Dr. Briggs asserts that the temperaments and environments of men determine which of the three ways of ascertaining to God they may pursue. He also makes statements in regard to the Holy Scriptures which cannot be reconciled with the doctrine of the true and full inspiration of those Scriptures, as the Word of God. He insists that the inerrancy of the original Scriptures is a sheer assumption, "a ghost of modern evangelism to frighten children and the English Bible is full of mistakes, with respect to its authenticity he announces, as the certain result of the science of the higher criticism, that Moses did not write the Pentateuch; David did not write the Psalter; but only a few of the Psalms; Solomon did not write the Song of Songs or Ecclesiastes, and only a portion of the Proverbs; Isaiah did not write half of the books that bears his name, and that the great mass of the Old Testament was written by authors whose names or connection with their writings are lost in oblivion, and then adds, "If this is destroying the Bible, the Bible is destroyed already." Respecting miracles he teaches that the theories concerning them that have been taught in the Christian Church are human inventions, for which the Scriptures and the Church have no responsibility whatever. As to predictive prophecy he holds with Kuennen that many predictions have been reversed by history, and that the great body of the Messianic prediction has not only never been fulfilled, but cannot now be fulfilled, for the reason that its own time is past forever.

He teaches that the sanctification of believers is not completed at death, but is continued and is perfected in the middle state, and that all the processes of redemption extend to the future in the case of many who die in sin, which extension of redemption is also implied in what he defines as a race redemption.

Let it be said that Dr. Briggs does not deny a divine element in the Scriptures, but seems to make a distinction between revelation and inspiration. Revelation is a direct communication from God concerning that of which man has no previous knowledge. Inspiration is infallible. But he regards inspiration, which has to do with circumstantial facts, as fallible. This accounts for the mistakes in the Bible. The stories of the Patriarchal age, of the Exodus and of Israel in Canaan are not, therefore, absolutely reliable. The human element may and does mar the Bible. Much of what has been regarded as history is allegory or fiction.

These views held by Dr. Briggs originated chiefly in Holland and Germany, and extended their influence throughout the continent. Wherever they have gone they have broken the authority of the Bible; have eaten out the nerves of pulp-it power; discouraged evangelism; preaching and holy living, and have made unregenerate persons indifferent to their spiritual interests. In the amended indictment against Dr. Briggs he is charged with teaching, first, the following errors: Reason is a foundation for divine authority, which may and does savingly enlighten men, even such men as reject the Scriptures as the authoritative proclamation of the will of God, and reject also the way of salvation through the mediation and sacrifice of the Son of God as revealed therein.

2. The Church is a foundation of divine authority which, apart from the Holy Scripture, may and does savingly enlighten men.

3. Error may have existed in the original text of the Holy Scripture.

4. Many of the Old Testament predictions have been reversed by history, and the body of Messianic prediction has not and cannot be fulfilled.

5. Moses did not write the Pentateuch, Isaiah is not the author of half of the book that bears his name.

6. The processes of redemption extend to the world to come in the case of many who die in sin.

7. Sanctification is not completed at death.

SCARCITY OF APPLES.

Circuit Court Business—Unsuccessful Sportsmen in the Field.

PULASKI, VA., Nov. 19.—Special.—The scarcity of apples in this section is without a precedent.

Our county and circuit courts will consume all of December. Spiller Foster, charged with the murder of W. L. Brown, last spring, will be tried in the circuit court. This will doubtless occupy at least three days of the term.

Fird hunting is at high-water mark, but our hunters are not bagging any large numbers of them. Visiting hunters wear good clothes, run blooded dogs and handle costly guns, but are not formidable in the field. They enjoy the sport, however, and we are glad to have them with us.

The ladies of the Methodist church are preparing a musical entertainment for the benefit of the parsonage. Mrs. Frank Harrison is in charge, and is being assisted by the singers of our town, irrespective of denominations.

The ladies of the Auxiliary of the Young Men's Christian Association expect to have Judge Farrar—"Johnny Reel"—to lecture for them soon.

They are Very Jubilant and Will Hold a Grand Celebration on Tuesday.

STAUNTON, VA., Nov. 19.—Special.—The Democrats of Staunton are perfectly jubilant over the grand Democratic victory, and are preparing for a magnificent celebration Tuesday night, the 22d. Thousands will be in line, and the celebration and procession will be every way worthy of the great victory. It will surpass anything of the kind ever attempted in Staunton.

There are numerous candidates for the office of postmaster of Staunton, and a good deal of activity among the candidates and their friends.

The city council at its last meeting let out to contract the new market house, huts and police court rooms and large Assembly Hall. This is a building that this town has long needed.

The Augusta county jail is about completed and is one of the best and most substantial to be found in the State. It is heated by steam, perfectly ventilated, and the part for criminals fitted up with steel cages, so there will be no fear of prisoners ever making their escape from its massive walls.

Quid Nunc.

Never has the adage that truth is stranger than fiction been more fully exemplified than when it was announced that the Richmond and Danville railroad would reduce the time between the Confederate capital and the Crescent City to thirty hours.

To leave Richmond at 12:50 A. M., connect at Danville with the Washington Southwestern vestibule limited and reach New Orleans the following morning, making this schedule a fait accompli.

The vestibule limited is a magnificent train of Pullman cars, equipped in toto with all the improvements and devices known in modern car construction; a dining-car, where meals are served table d'hôte, the cuisine and service equaling that of the best-regulated hotels; sleeping-cars and a library and observation-car, the latter containing the works of standard authors. This train arrives at Atlanta at 4:35 P. M. same day, making it possible to reach Richmond papers in Atlanta, Ga., the same day they appear here, a distance of 550 miles. The following morning, at 7:35 A. M., New Orleans is reached.

This enterprise on the part of the Richmond and Danville people to improve the service between the James and the Mississippi will be appreciated by its many patrons.

Should you want to know where your commercial traveler is on Sundays you will find him at Winston-Salem's magnificent new hotel, "The Zinsendorf."

LEXINGTON SOCIETY.

STUDENTS MORE INTERESTED IN GAMES THAN IN GERMAN.

Graham Society Will Celebrate on General Lee's Birthday—The Dancin' Class. The Visiting Young Ladies.

LEXINGTON, VA., Nov. 19.—At the beginning of the session I predicted a lively winter. Just how far wrong that prediction is time can only tell. The right material is in college and at the institute to make things interesting, but so far they have found more pleasure in foot-ball than in Germans. If they have money to contribute it is not for music and a hall, but for a different kind of music and a ball, and for the cadets, so far, the sweetest music of all was the music at the end of the game—the yell of victory.

College politics is again the absorbing subject at Washington and Lee, and, as usual, the fair sex are in the arena. Saturday night the election of all officers for the Intermediate society celebration takes place. There will be a president, vice-president and secretary named for both the Washington and Graham-Lee Literary Societies; also, four declaimers and four debaters for each, as well as chief marshal and other functionaries. Candidates are out and are putting up a lively fight. Fraternities generally enter largely into these elections, but this year it would appear that the men are trusting to themselves. The Graham-Lee Society has its celebration on the evening of General Robert E. Lee's birthday, in January. The Washington follows on the 23d of February. They are generally followed by Germans in honor of the visiting young ladies.

A young lady said to me the other day that it appeared to her that all the University men were working for medals, as they had longer faces than usual, did harder work in the societies, and more "bliss" were members of Professor Graves' Law Debating Society.

Mr. Bolling Lee's dancing class is increasing its membership week by week. Mr. Lee is the most energetic final ball president in my memory. His endeavor to make good dancing men out of the new material here is a laudable one, and is meeting with the encouragement of the fair sex as well as the boys.

Colonel and Mrs. Parke have moved from their suburban residence near "Art Acres" to Lexington avenue, "between limits," much to the gratification of the many young men, who find great pleasure not only in the charming company and hospitality of Mrs. Parke, but the young ladies who visit her.

I find on the list of visitors for the winter many charming young ladies, none of whom will be more warmly welcomed than Miss Lucy Table of Hampton, Va., who will visit the Misses Graham, in December.

Miss Margie Freeland, with the Misses Poore, of Baltimore, and Miss Lewis and Miss Bettie Clark, of Clarke county, will take up their regular winter quarters here in December.

Robert Robert Catlett is in Charlotte county, his old home.

Mrs. Robert Showell, of Berlin, Md., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Governor Lecher.

Mrs. E. A. Moore is visiting Judge John J. Allan, of Botetourt county.

Mr. J. H. Moore and Mr. E. A. Moore are visiting in Pulaski county.

Miss Peck, of Corsicana, Tex., is the guest of her brother at the "Varsity."

Four of Virginia's congressmen are alumni of Washington and Lee.

Lexington is the happy possessor of two men, who have been mentioned for Cleveland's Cabinet, John Randolph Tucker and Fitz Lee.

An effort will be made here next week by which Mr. Cleveland will be informed of the desire of Virginia and her sister States to have Mr. John Randolph Tucker appointed Attorney-General. It is already assuming good shape.

Mr. John Cook, Class '91, Virginia Military Institute, is here on a visit.

Albemarle County.

GLENDOVER, Nov. 19.—Mr. John Coles and family, of St. Louis, brother of the Misses Coles, are visiting his sister at Woodville.

Mr. Charles Shaw, wife and daughter left last Thursday for Washington, where they will spend the winter.

Mrs. Peyton S. Coles, of Estouville, has gone to Jenkintown, Pa., to spend the winter with her son, Rev. Robert Coles.

MILLINGTON.

Mrs. M. L. Harris has been visiting her friends here during the last week.

Miss Fannie Rodes, who has been visiting Mrs. Warner Lewis, of Wilmington, N. C., will return home in a few days. Mrs. Lewis will accompany her.

Mr. J. W. Thurston and family contemplate moving to Charlottesville.

APTON.

Mr. Rush Lipscomb has gone on an extended trip to New York.

Rev. Hartwell Hawthorne will be ordained at Hebron the fourth Sabbath in this month.

Mr. Fulton Williams has gone to Charlottesville to fill a business appointment.

Miss Mary Moon and Miss Nannie Toulmy have gone to Austin, Tex., where they will spend the winter.

Miss Womble, of Richmond, is visiting at Mr. W. J. Barksdale's.

Mrs. Antrim and Miss Nannie Smith, of Lynchburg, are visiting their sister, Mrs. Will Turner.

KEWICK.

Mr. David Hancock, of the University, paid us a flying visit last week.

Mr. Dimock, of Boston, is at his summer home, "Ingleside," near this place.

No Safer Remedy can be had for Coughs and Colds, or any trouble of the Throat, than "Brown's Franchist Troches." Sold only in boxes.—adv.

OFFICE SCHOOL BOARD OF CITY OF RICHMOND, VA., 805 east Marshall street.

PROPOSALS FOR SCHOOL DESKS.—SEALED PROPOSALS will be received by the "City School Board of the City of Richmond, Va." at the office No. 805 east Marshall street, until 12 o'clock on

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1892, to furnish the said City School Board with SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOUBLE SCHOOL DESKS, AND ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY READING desks and seats to be delivered in packages, "knocked down," at such school houses in the city of Richmond as may be designated by the supervisor, free of freight and drayage. Sample desks must be submitted for examination, at the same place, on or before THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1892. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids offered.

By order of the Committee on Buildings and Furniture. CHARLES P. RADY, clerk and supervisor.

MOZART ACADEMY OF MUSIC. Ed. HAMILTON CARILL, Lessee and Manager

GRAND GYMNASIUM DISPLAY

By members of the

Young Men's Christian Association

Tuesday Evening, Nov. 22d.

Mr. W. Harry Ward, of Washington, will give an exhibition of many Bicycles. The Richmond College Foot-ball Team will give a number of tableaux illustrative of the game.

Admission.....25c. Reserved Seats.....50c. extra. no 23-11

BROU

A PERMANENT CURE

For 25c. to 50c. of most obtainable cures. Guaranteed not to produce Brou, no side effects, and no inconvenience or loss of time. Recommended by all the best physicians of the world. (Address to Rev. J. J. Brou, Richmond, Va.)

CLOTHING, &c.

Careful investigation arrives at the conclusion that NO other house DOES—EVER DID—OR EVER WILL—sell such STERLING QUALITIES at such LOW PRICES as We quote.

SAKS AND COMPANY.



The "mercury took a tumble" yesterday—and the OVERCOAT buyers fairly swarmed in on us—On US—because they knew which way to turn for the greatest satisfaction—It is next to impossible to miss being suited from OUR variety—Men who were willing to pay much—and those who were compelled to pay little—found more than they bargained for.

The errand was straight to the second floor—where all the OVERCOATS are—A look—a try on or two—a selection—and then down through the store the crowds filtered—Some stopped on the First floor for SUITS—others for SHOES—and CLOTHES for the BOYS—others went straight for the HATS and FURNISHINGS—Some had a call to make at every department—Altogether it rolled up the biggest day's business since the name of SAKS has hung over a store-door.

The \$12.50 grade of OVERCOATS and SUITS got the lion's share of attention—Some came confident—Some came wondering—but all went away fixed.

If our \$12.50 line is so exceptional—what must the costlier ones be?—At \$45—where we wind up—expertness has done its best—But it makes a strong beginning at \$10—with every style.

Our stock is entirely fresh—NO ACCUMULATION OF DUST AND MOTH-EATEN GARMENTS—Every one we offer you is perfect in every detail—cut, make and finish—and our prices—where they ALWAYS ARE—at rock bottom.

We are ready to get at it again to-morrow morning.

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